



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

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WINNERS NAMED IN STATEWIDE FIRE SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Nashville, TN.- Each year, the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office holds a poster contest in an effort to raise fire safety awareness for one of Tennessee's most vulnerable groups, our children.

This year's theme was "Use Candles with Care," and it corresponds with the National Fire Protection Association's Fire Prevention Week campaign.

"Our statistics show us that school-age children really do understand the basics of fire safety, thanks to the fire safety education programs in our schools," said State Fire Marshal, Paula A. Flowers. "They know to stay low and go when there's a fire, stop-drop-and-roll if your clothes are on fire, and to go to a neighbor's house and call 911."

Students from Kindergarten through twelfth grade created posters to promote candle safety concepts. Each school and fire department submitted entries from their district to compete statewide. This year's turnout was the highest ever with nearly 300 entries. The winners are:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Sponsoring Dept</u>
Kindergarten	Max Cooper	Ellendale Elementary	Bartlett Fire Dept
First	Ethan Valk	Winstead Elementary	Franklin Fire Dept
Second	Jhe`Dienne Adams	Centennial Elementary	Dickson Fire Dept
Third	Cacey Shelton	New Prospect Elementary	New Prospect Fire Dept
Fourth	Grace Hawks	University School of Jackson	City of Jackson Fire Dept
Fifth	Caleb Long	Union City Elementary	Union City Fire Dept
Sixth	Madison Turner	Union City Middle	Union City Fire Dept
Seventh	Aubrey Zannini	Pleasant Hill Elementary	Cumberland County Fire Dept
Eighth	Devin Johnson	Rose Hill Middle	Madison County Fire Dept
Ninth	Allison Lynch	Dickson County High School	Dickson Fire Dept
Tenth	John Neal	Cumberland County High School	Cumberland County Fire Dept
Eleventh	Marc Flanders	Collierville High School	Collierville Fire and Rescue
Twelfth	Susanne Salehi	Bartlett High School	Bartlett Fire Dept
Spec Ed K-5	Celeste Ogle	Pi Beta Phi	Gatlinburg Fire Dept
Spec Ed 6-12	William Aguilar	Union City Middle	Union City Fire Dept

A panel of local artists judged the entries on artistic merit, theme, and originality. Winners will receive a \$50 savings bond, a letter from Governor Bredesen, dinner and a free night stay at local hotel.

An award banquet will be held on Sunday, February 12 at the Holiday Inn Select Vanderbilt. For more information about the banquet, please call 615.741.2981.

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